

Transitioning Together

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*Chris Downe from BU
with Ms. Hoffman*



T² now has a website:
www.nnhst2.org
Information for each cohort as well as important updates, resources and forms.
Check it out!

Fall Focus

It's been a busy fall for the Transitioning Together seniors and their mentors!

We started the year with a T² gathering right before the Senior Parent Night. We had an informative conversation with Chris Downe from the Boston University Admission Office, who spoke about the benefits of a program like Transitioning Together. Chris assured our families that many colleges are working hard to attract and retain first generation students. He spoke about the importance of meeting deadlines and making use of the many resources both at the colleges and at Newton North.

Our financial aid night is another important opportunity for our T² family to meet and get valuable information. The experts from MEFA generously meet with the T² group before the official Financial Aid workshop for the entire senior class. They will also offer individual help later this year.

In November we'll have an evening devoted to completing the applications! Some of the mentees have already received feedback on their essays, but we'll make sure their entire applications are in good shape. All in all, a great start with a fabulous group!



*Ms. Hanenberger
with T² mentors*



*Dr. Price
welcomes
everyone at
our September
16th meeting*

T2 Student Spotlight:
 Patricia Muumba, T² Class of 2014
 Cornell University Class of 2018

Now that you are in college, what do you wish you had known before you got there?

I wish I had known that there was the possibility to find a community where you could find your place no matter who you are. That might have saved me a lot of the stress and anxiety I went through as the move in day got closer and closer.

Is there anything you would do differently?

Actually, not really. Maybe I could have appreciated the resources available at Newton North a lot more and taken advantage of them more. But other than that, I enjoyed my senior year to the fullest and made so many friendships that will last a lifetime.

Was there any advice from either your mentor or T² experience that has had a big impact on your transition to college?

From my mentor: There is no right answer in architecture. It's up to you to make your answer the best answer it can be, period. The sooner you realize that, the easier it will be for you to get through architecture school.

Is there anything else you wish we had talked about at our T² meetings? Anything else you wish your mentor had said/done?

Not much. Just emphasize that mentors and mentees should stay in contact. My mentor is a great person to just call to say hi. The students should bond more because they will need each other when they move on to college.

What would you tell students thinking about being in Transitioning Together about the program?

It gave me hope when I started to lose hope. And it gave me faith when I needed it the most. When I met Stephanie, she enabled me to dream. She told me there was no reason why I shouldn't apply to these "big schools." And 7 months after our first meeting, I was paying my deposit to Cornell University. Grab at opportunity when it knocks at your door, because it does not knock twice.

What suggestions do you have for students about to start the college application process?

Try to finish a lot of the college process by February so you do not have to worry about it later in senior year. Secondly, apply to schools you can see yourself at and not schools you think are just cool because you are going to live on this campus for four maybe five years like I am and you do not want to have to regret your decision when you get to college. Finally, when writing your essay, write an essay about that one thing that makes you the ideal student for the college compared to all the other students who are applying.

Please feel free to add any additional thoughts or experience you would like to share with T²

Mentees: Mentors are the best thing that could happen to you, use them while you have them around. Ask them questions as well as ask them for help. I was blessed with a mentor who has a wealth of knowledge that I am blessed to acquire through their mentorship. Hang out with them when you can. Get to know them. Not every student in your position gets mentorship like you are.

Mentors: Mentees need your help. They might not text you back or even pick up your phone calls but don't give up on them. They really need you but are too proud to admit it.



*Rich Labeledz, Class of 2014 Mentee Coordinator
with Patricia*

Class of 2015 Mentee Demographics:

86% (25 mentees) First Generation in their family to attend college in the United States

14% (4 mentees) in METCO

34% (10 mentees) English Language Learners (ELL) or former ELL (FLEP)

28% (8 mentees) in NNHS Dover Legacy Scholars (DLS)

31% (9 mentees) living with a single parent or guardian

24% (7 mentees) living with someone other than biological parent

62% (18 mentees) receiving Free or Reduced Lunch

UMASS Boston



**Class of 2015
College Visits**



Framingham State University

Our Class of 2015 has been busy attending college visits during the month of October. Getting on campus is a critical way to gather impressions and details about college options. Mentors and mentees have visited Babson College, Framingham State University, UMASS Boston, UMASS Lowell and Lasell College. It has been great to see these local colleges as mentees build and start to finalize their college lists.



Babson College



Lasell College



Our New T² Team:

Melissa Hanenberger, T² Director & Mentor Coordinator

Nani Bauza, Class of 2016 Mentee Coordinator

Radka Grein, Class of 2015 Mentee Coordinator

Sarah Hoffman, Programming Coordinator

Rich Labendz, Class of 2014 Mentee Coordinator

Shiroy Aspandiar, Principal's Intern

Transitioning Together is transforming lives. First generation students and their families who do not have access to resources, nor knowledge of the college application process, are now equipped with skills, tools and relationships. From the winter of junior year through the spring of senior year, our mentors walk mentees and their families through the daunting college application process and provide them with hope, assistance and support. Going to college is no longer just a dream, with Transitioning Together, it becomes a reality.

Class of 2016 Update

- We have begun to deliver applications to students during the month of October.
- A total of 54 NNHS students have already been nominated by their counselors and teachers.
- Phone calls have been made to parents to notify them of this mentor program during their college planning period.
- The response from the prospective students and their families has been of great relief and gratefulness for this incredible resource.

Important dates for the incoming 2016 cohort:

- 1) **November 17 & November 20:** X Block Ice Cream Social
Opportunity for Class of 2016 Cohort to learn from Class of 2015 T² participants
- 2) **November 25:** Application deadline
- 3) **January 22:** First T² Meeting and Junior Family Night
- 4) **February 24:** Class of 2015 Retreat at Mount Ida College



Transitioning Together

www.nnhst2.org

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